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KEEP THE FUTURE WILD

World Environment Day celebrated in Nay Pyi Taw

THE killing and smuggling of animals is undermining economies and ecosystems, fuelling organised crime and feeding corruption and insecurity across the globe, said President U Htin Kyaw in his opening speech at the commemoration of World Environment Day in Nay Pyi Taw, whose theme was “Zero Tolerance for the Illegal Wildlife Trade”.

He also called for action to protect resources and ecosystems, ensuring sustainable development for future generations and investment in alternative technologies to save the environment and biodiversity.

“Environmental issues must be embedded in our development policies,” said the president.

Myanmar joined the international community in celebrating World Environment Day, which aims to raise public awareness of the need to preserve the environment, to understand environmental issues and challenges and highlight awareness of the illegal

wildlife trade.

As part of the country’s efforts to promote sustainable development, including the protection and preservation of wildlife, Myanmar will formulate a national environmental policy and strategic framework and a master plan in collaboration with the UNDP; a national climate change strategy and action plan with UNEP, UN-Habitat and the EU; a green economy policy and strategic framework with the World Wildlife Fund; National and city-level waste management strategies and action plans with UNEP and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategy; and a hazardous waste management master plan with the National Environmental Agency of Norway.

President U Htin Kyaw also pledged to step up the country’s national strategies and to put effort into the safeguarding the environment, urging the people to understand the damage the illicit business is doing to the environ-

ment, livelihoods, communities and security.

“More awareness and action pushes governments and international bodies to introduce and enforce tougher laws and to combat those still willing to break them,” said the president.

Up to 2015, 36 wildlife sanctuaries have been established on 5.6 per cent of the country’s land area.

Meanwhile, plans are underway to establish nine more sanctuaries in the country, which has seven ASEAN heritage parks.

Myanmar had taken action against 189 cases of illicit trading of wildlife and endangered species of plants from 2010 to March 2016.

He called on governments, non-governmental organisations, the business community and private citizens to participate in the implementation tasks preserve all life on earth to ensure that succeeding generations have a prosperous future. In his speech, the president also remarked on the



President U Htin Kyaw speaks at Commemoration of World Environment Day in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

global wildlife trade, saying over 1,000 rhinos and 35,000 African elephants are poached for horns and ivory every year, chimpanzees are fast disappearing, 3,000 bears are lost annually.

The illegal wildlife trade is a US\$20 billion industry that now ranks number four in the global illegal trade, after narcotic drugs, weapons and human trafficking.—Myanmar News Agency

Dengue fever drops sharply within first five months



A man fumigates a classroom in south Okkalapa Township. FILE PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

THE number of dengue patients has decreased dramatically within the first five months of 2016 between January and May compared to the same period last year, according to statistics from the Department of Health for Yangon Region.

The period of January to the end of May last year saw a total of 968 cases of dengue fever, resulting in six deaths, but the same period this year saw these figures drop to just 280 cases and four deaths.

Dr Mon Mon Kyaw, a doctor specialising in mosquito-borne diseases at the Department of Health, said that although the number of dengue fever patients has decreased this year, precautions still need to be taken during the rainy season to guard against the disease.

“Last year’s high volume of

dengue fever patients was a catalyst for the beginning of dengue protection and prevention activities from the start of this year. It’s important that the public participates in measures against the disease,” she added.

Dengue fever prevention activities were also conducted in schools across Yangon Region, including spraying mosquito repellent and clearing mosquito larvae.

“Classrooms have been closed and left unused during the long holidays. Schools are now reopen for the new term, so they’re being sprayed with insect repellent to kill off any breeding mosquitos. Students make up a third of the whole population, so it’s important that special attention is paid to their wellbeing,” continued Dr Mon Mon Kyaw.

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Sales of catfish offspring double in Thanlyin

DEMAND for fresh and salt water catfish fingerlings within Yangon's Thanlyin Township has doubled this May, compared with sales during April, according to fish offspring sellers.

Only around 25,000 baby fish were sold in the Thanlyin market in April, with the end of the third week of May seeing sales reach over the 50,000 mark.

"Catfish are the type of fish for which there's trading all year round, while the normal season for selling fish offspring is between April and October. But the scorching temperatures this April dried up sales. The coming of the rains has seen a distinct trend of consecutive sales—an increase of 50 per cent," said Ko Ye Kyaw, a fish offspring distributor and seller.

Catfish farmers generally start by breeding around 4,000 fish. After around three months, they can earn a profit of around K700,000 if at least 3,500 of their offspring have not perished, according to catfish farmers.



Catfish fingerlings are seen at a hatchery in Thanlyin.

PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

Catfish offspring measuring two inches long sell for K50 each in the national wholesale market. Most buyers are from Mon and Kayin states and Bago and Ayeyawady regions.

"Our fish couldn't stand the heatwave we had back in April. Only those with tarpaulins completely covering their ponds bred fish. With the coming of the rain, we've been breeding fish since the

start of May, ordering [offspring] from as far as Yangon," said Ko-Myo Zaw, a fish farmer from Myan Aung Township, Ayeyawady Region.

Catfish are fed imported dried fish feed from neighbouring Thailand and chopped up chicken intestines, and once the offspring reach four inches in size, they can be fed whole chicken intestines.—Myit-makha News Agency

Combined team inspects pharmacies in Mandalay Region

WITH the aim of preventing the selling of unlicensed and expired drugs, a combined team of Food and Drug Inspection officers comprising the Department of Food and Drugs Administration under the Ministry of Health and Sports, the Myanmar Police Force, the Mandalay City Development Committee, an Anti-Narcotic Drug Squad and the Customs and the General Administrative Department inspected pharmacies in Mandalay.

The team inspected a pharmacy in Chanmyathazan Town-

ship on Thursday, confiscating 82 packages of Dexoph, 12 unregistered injection bottles and 167 packages of expired Neclor. Similarly, the team seized 19 kinds of unlicensed Dextro tablets and expired Dynapar in Aung Myaethazan Township. Local police have filed charges against the owners of the pharmacies under the National Drug Laws. The Department of Food and Drugs Administration will continue to make surprise checks of drug stores in Mandalay District, it has been learned.—MaungPyithu



Crime NEWS

Illegal logs seized in Kyaukme



A car full of illegal timber was stopped on the way from Shan State to China. PHOTO: MMAL

AUTHORITIES on Thursday confiscated K1.7 million worth illegal logs weighing about three tonnes from local smugglers in Nanmatu Township in Kyaukme District, Shan State.

Five men transporting illegal logs by car were arrested after a duty-conscientious gave a tip-off to police.

A combined team including members of the forestry department and local police searched the three cars en route

to China on the Nanmatu-Mantong Road.

They found nearly one tonne of logs worth over K650,000 in a car driven by Eike Linn and carrying one passenger, 20 logs worth K540,000 in another car driven by Aung Aung and nearly K500,000 worth illegal logs weighing 0.692 tonnes in a Pajero driven by Tun Aung and carrying one passenger.

All people involved in the case have been charged by the police.—Police Information

Man stabbed to death by nephew

A 36-YEAR-OLD man named Thein Win was stabbed to death on Thursday by his nephew while the two were quarrelling.

According to police, the victim met his nephew Myo Chit for a drink in Shiteaintan Village in Khwaylaygyi Village-tract, Myaungmya Township, Ayeyawady Region, on the afternoon of 2 June. Myo Chit

stabbed the victim's neck with a sharpened piece of bamboo during the quarrel.

The victim died on the spot due to his injuries, which included trauma to his head, where the nephew hit him with a glass bottle. Myo Chit is being charged by the local police under the Criminal Law.—Aung Min (IPRD)

Five arrested for drug smuggling

TWO men found in possession of heroin and yaba pills were arrested by local police in Kyaukme, northern Shan State, on Thursday.

Acting on a tip-off, an anti-drug squad searched a Pajero driven by Aung Lwin (aka Law Lwin) and carrying another

passenger on the road between Kyaukme and Mongtin near Peace Hill in Aungmyethaya Monastery in Kyaukme.

Police discovered nearly one gram of heroin and 180 yaba pills in the driver's possession. Police also found about 200 grams of heroin and 4,000 yaba tablets in

the driver's home.

Police have charged the two suspects under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Police are still investigating the case in an effort to arrest others who may have been involved.—Thein Than

Corpse found on Yangon-Mandalay highway

THE body of a man was found on Saturday on the road between Yangon and Mandalay by villagers in Bago Region, police reported yesterday.

Police went to the scene

where the man was found dead between mile posts No 105/2 and No 105/3 near Hraintabin and Htawnwe villages.

Investigators said they have not been able to identify the body

as the face and body are badly damaged, and they believe the man was killed by a vehicle.

Police are still investigating the case in order to arrest the driver, who fled the scene.—Nay Lin

Nine injured after vehicle overturns

NINE people were injured on Friday after a car went off the Kawlin-Pinlebu Road and overturned near Ywathaya Village, which is located 23 miles from the township police station in Katha District, Sagaing Region.

The six-wheel vehicle loaded with cargo and carrying 12 passengers was driven by Chain Oo from Inga Village to Kawlin. It overturned on the left side of the road near mile post No 38 when the brakes failed.

Nine passengers, including a six-year-old boy and five women, were injured during the accident.

The driver is facing charges for reckless driving by local police.—U Ye



A six-wheel vehicle being seen overturned. PHOTO:MMAL

Activists mark World Environment Day in Katha



Gold mining is blamed for pollution of the Meza Creek. PHOTO: MAUNG CHIT LIN

ENVIRONMENTAL activists marked World Environment Day in Katha yesterday with the participation of local youth development associations.

“The destruction of ecosystems is related to deforestation, global warming and climate change,” said Ma Ei Ei Hmwe, a member of the Kadu Youth Development Association.

Meza Creek has been deteriorating as a result of both legal and illegal gold mining, she said, adding that more than 30 villages are located along the creek.

“Companies and individuals pan for gold in the creek, and the creek is the lifeblood of the villages along it,” she said, calling for prompt action by the departments concerned to bring the creek to life.

U Zaw Myo Tun, chairman of the Kadu Youth Development Association, said timber extraction gained momentum after 2000 because farmers began to extract timber on a manageable scale.

Deforestation followed as forestry departments turned a blind eye to logging, he said. Disasters such as hailstorms, floods, strong winds and earthquakes in May signal the effects of environmental degradation and the destruction of ecosystems, activists said.—*Maung Chit Lin*

Mon State salt farmers seek credit schemes

SALT farmers in Mon State have said they desire the issuance of loans in the same manner as paddy farmers have been given credit to cover their agricultural expenses, in order to develop the salt industry in the region.

“The price of salt has been increasing ever so slightly for the last couple of years now. Those who are returning to abandoned salt fields following previous declines in the value of the commodity have to repair their fields, and this requires great expenses.

If the state were to issue credit to the salt farmers with the expectation of developing the market, then they would return to cultivating salt,” said U Htun Tin, a salt farmer from Mon State’s Thabyuzayat Township.

Roughly K300,000 is required to produce an acre’s worth of salt, farmers have said they would be pleased with loans of K200,000 per acre.

U Khin Soe, manager of the Myanmar Salt Enterprise in Mon State, has said that once construction has been completed on the caustic soda processing plant in Mon State’s Thaton Township, for which tenders are cur-

rently being called, the plant will annually require between 50,000 and 70,000 metric tonnes of salt, prompting a desire for the preparation of salt fields to begin now so that demand can be fulfilled once the factory opens.

“Our Mon State salt fields need to be producing at full capacity if we’re to meet the needs of the caustic soda plant. Financial support in terms of credit loans needs to be given in order to maximise this capacity.

The ministry-led Mon State Salt Enterprise Committee must meet with salt entrepreneurs and salt farmers to ensure that the quality of salt produced is in line with standards desired by the factory and to assess exactly what kind of financial support the factory can provide for the farmers,” he said.

Mon State currently boasts approximately 5,600 acres of salt-producing fields, but depreciations in the value of salt, a scarcity of skilled labour and a lack of capital have meant these salt fields cannot be harvested to full capacity, with just 3,000 acres being harvested this year, according to salt farmers.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Environmental activists call for action against illegal wildlife trade

DIRECTOR U Ko Ko Aye of the Mandalay Region Department of Environmental Conservation has called for decisive action to stamp out the illegal wildlife trade in a bid to strike a balance between biodiversity conservation and viable ecosystems.

The department celebrated World Environment Day in Mandalay yesterday under the theme “The fight against the illegal trade in wildlife”.

U Ko Ko Aye said the

booming illegal wildlife trade was robbing the world of its precious biodiversity, thereby undermining economic prosperity and giving rise to organised crime, corruption and insecurity.

According to studies by international scientists, some 100,000 elephants in Africa were poached between 2010 and 2012, with 170 tonnes of ivory lost to the illegal trade between 2009 and 2014. It is also estimated that nearly 1,338 rhinos were

poached in 2015 and that some 3,000 apes are captured every year. Chimpanzees are reported to be now extinct in Gambia, Burkina Faso, Benin and Togo.

The destruction of ecosystems will lead to environmental degradation, with a UN report stating that outdoor air pollution kills some 40,000 people every year. The number is greater than the that of people killed by AIDS, malaria and TB combined.—*Aung Thant Khaing*

Reinstatement of public spaces to be discussed in Yangon Hluttaw

DISCUSSION within the Yangon Hluttaw on a proposal for the reinstatement of public areas has been scheduled for 16 June, it has been learned.

“In the name of development of society, public health, education and to ensure everyone can live a secure and peaceful existence, there is a need to search and reveal - as much as capacity will allow - areas of public land such as recreational fields, water reservoirs, libraries and parks that were rented out or divided up and sold off by government departments and reinstate them as public spaces.” expressed U Nay Phone Latt, Yangon Hluttaw MP for Thingangyun Township.

The statement made by MP U

Nay Phone Latt - aka U Nay Myo Kyaw - on Monday within the Yangon Hluttaw, was supported by another MP, making it eligible for further discussion with parliament on June 16.

“There’s one point about U Nay Phone Latt’s address [that I’d like to point out] - the fact that there shouldn’t be construction of government buildings upon State owned land. Further to that, there’s the trespassing problems of private companies constructing buildings on State owned land. This proposal should be discussed further [in the Hluttaw] because there seems to be confusion on these points,” said Dr Maung Maung Soe, Mayor of Yangon.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Dengue fever drops sharply...

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The disease prevention activities are being carried out in 44 Yangon townships, while activities are also underway to rid mosquito larvae from areas where young children and babies live.

“My child is only seven years old but he’s suffered from dengue fever three times already. He experienced a serious fever but was fortunately cured at home by the family doctor without requiring a visit to the hospital. We are now taking precautions to prevent him from getting infected by the disease again,” said Daw Than Myint from North Dagon Township.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

LOCAL Business

Seven new border trade camps to open

ARRANGEMENTS are being made to open seven new border trade camps, including a camp in the Wa Special Administrative Zone, in accordance with the second short-term five-year National Comprehensive Development Plan, which spans from 2016-2017 to 2020-2021.

The seven camps will be located in Maese, Htantalan, Paletwa, Mongla, Pansan (Wa), Ponpakyin (BP1) and Phayathonzu.

Myanmar's border

trade volume reached US\$819 million from 1 April to 27 May this year, which includes an export value of \$530 million and an import value of US\$289 million.

Myanmar exported agricultural products, animal products, mineral products, forestry products and industrial finished goods, while it imported household goods, industrial raw materials and investment goods.

China is Myanmar's largest border trade partner,

followed by Thailand. Myanmar authorities plan to continue to open new trade camps at the borders with China, Thailand and India and to boost the trade of industrial products and raw materials and agricultural products.

There are 16 border trade camps already operating in Myanmar.

Myanmar's trade camps on the border with China include Muse 105-Mile, Bamaw (Lweje), Kwanlon (Chin Shwe Haw),

Kan Pite Tee and Kengtung. The Tachileik, Myawady, Kawthaung, Myeik (FOB), Mawtaung and Hteekhe camps are situated on Myanmar's border with Thailand.

The Tamu and Reed camps are between Myanmar and India, while the Sittwe, Maung Taw camps are situated on the border with Bangladesh. The Kyainglat trade camp has been temporarily opened at the Myanmar-Laos border. —ML/Union Daily

Deregistration of scrapped cars rises

WITH the price of licensed cars rising, the deregistration of damaged, scrapped cars has increased.

Car registration prices are rising because permit-free cars will soon come under heavy taxes. The rise in the cost of registration has pushed more owners of scrapped cars to deregister at the Road Transport Administration Department (RTAD).

"The number of damaged cars that have deregistered with the RTAD significantly increased at the end of May, with a total of 55 cars," said an official from the RTAD.

Some cars are being

deregistered despite the fact that they are still usable. The largest proportion of newly deregistered cars is made up of Suzuki models valued around K6 million, said U Pa Lay, a car dealer.

Fewer than 150 cars deregistered in previous months, but the number of deregistering cars rose above 300 in May, following the rise in the price of registration.

Locally manufactured cars from the industrial zones have a life span of 10 years, while imported cars can last 20 years and above, according to RTAD protocol.

—ML/Union Daily

Price manipulators at YSX to face penalties

THE Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) has been investigating people caught attempting to manipulate the share prices of First Myanmar Investment (FMI) and Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH),

said U Thet Tun Oo, the executive senior manager of YSX.

The orders placed at YSX just before stock opening time are assumed to manipulate share prices. Action will be taken

against those who repeatedly place such orders. If they are found to have been violating YSX protocol, they will face action under Subsection 49 of Chapter 9 of the Securities Exchange Law, the executive senior

manager added.

An official announcement about this behaviour was issued on 1 June. YSX announced share prices at 9:30am and processes share trading from 11am to 1pm. —WWP/Union Daily

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Chinese admiral blames US for raising South China Sea tensions

SINGAPORE — A high-ranking Chinese military official on Sunday hit back at the United States and some of its allies over heightened tensions in the South China Sea, saying it is about time for them to be free from a “Cold War mentality.”

“The South China Sea issue has become overheated because of provocations of certain countries for their own selfish interests,” Adm. Sun Jianguo, deputy chief of the Joint Staff Department of China’s Central Military Commission, told a session of Asia’s premier security forum, known as the Shangri-La Dialogue, in Singapore.

Without mentioning the United States and its allies by name, Sun accused “some countries” of applying “international law only when it is convenient and ignoring when it is not.”

“We don’t want to make trouble but we have no fear of trouble,” he said, adding that China’s posi-



Adm. Sun Jianguo, deputy chief of the Joint Staff Department of China’s Central Military Commission. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

tion on the South China Sea, where it has territorial disputes with several Southeast Asian countries — Viet Nam and the Philippines, in particular — remains unchanged.

Sung criticised the US military patrols close to areas China controls in the South China Sea under a so-called freedom of navigation programme and accused the Philippines of filing an case against China with a UN arbitration court

in 2013 “under the guise of international law.”

He made it clear that China will neither accept nor honor a ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the case that is expected to come out in the not-so-distant future and will possibly be unfavourable for Beijing.

China claims almost the entire South China Sea, rich in fish and potential gas and oil reserves. Its massive reclamation of is-

lands in the contested waters and building of military facilities on them have generated concerns among not only the claimants but also the United States and other countries in the region.

A day before the admiral’s statement, not a few defence ministers who attended the three-day security forum, including those from Japan and the United States, expressed deep concern over China’s actions and urged it to behave in accordance with international law.

In his address on Saturday, US Defence Secretary Ashton Carter called on China to stop its “expansive and unprecedented actions” and respect the upcoming ruling by the court in The Hague.

Otherwise, Carter said, “China could end up erecting a Great Wall of self-isolation.” “The peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region underpin the prosperity of the whole interna-

tional community, not just that of the region,” Japanese Defence Minister Gen Nakatani said in his speech. “Therefore, no country can be an outsider on the issue.” On the last day of the event, Sung refuted Carter’s notion, saying China is a “firm maintainer of regional and world peace” and that “we were not isolated in the past, we are not isolated now and we will not be isolated in the future.”

“Actually, I am worried that some people and countries are still looking at China with a Cold War mentality and prejudice. They may build a wall in their minds and end up isolating themselves,” he said.

As China often insists, he said that non-claimant countries in the territorial rows must not interfere in Beijing’s process of trying to settle them bilaterally, because they are “not allowed to sabotage our path of peace for selfish gains.”—Kyodo News

Philippines’ Duterte tells mining companies to ‘shape up’

DAVAO (Philippines) — Philippine President-elect Rodrigo Duterte warned mining companies to “shape up”, as he signalled he would prefer ownership of mining assets to be left to local investors.

He also said the incoming government may rewrite rules to limit environmental degradation in the sector.

Duterte, who assumes office on 30 June has named nearly all his cabinet members this week but has yet to appoint a new minister that will oversee the Southeast Asian country’s mining sector.

The country has among the largest untapped mineral resources in the region but years of opposition from the Catholic Church and a strong anti-mining lobby, as well as insurgency and widespread corruption, have stalled many projects including the \$5.9 billion gold-copper Tampakan project in the southern Mindanao island discovered in 1991.

“I have a big problem with mining companies. They are destroying the soil of our country,” Duterte told a crowd of more than 100,000 in Davao celebrating his 9 May election victory.

“The mining people must shape up. It has to stop. The spoiling of the land, the destroying of Mindanao.”

Swiss giant Glencore quit the Tampakan project in 2015, with the venture halted by a ban on open-pit mining in Mindanao’s South Cotabato province imposed from 2010. A local company has taken over the project.

Duterte signalled that ownership of mining companies may be best be left to locals.

“I want it to be a cooperative of all Filipinos. We will support them and give them instructions how not to end up spoiling the land, he said.” —Reuters

Japan, Britain to help ASEAN upgrade maritime capabilities



Japanese Defence Minister Gen Nakatani (L) and his British counterpart Michael Fallon (R) hold talks on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue, Asia’s premier security forum, in Singapore on 5 June 2016. The two countries agreed to launch talks between their senior defence officials on programmes aimed at helping Southeast Asian countries upgrade their maritime capabilities. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

SINGAPORE — Japan and Britain agreed Sunday to launch talks between their senior defence officials on programmes aimed at helping Southeast Asian countries upgrade their maritime capabilities.

The agreement to start the consultations by the end of this month in London was reached between Japanese Defence Minister Gen Nakatani and his British counterpart Michael Fallon on the sidelines of a

major security forum in Singapore.

The support they have in mind for the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations is measures to upgrade their capacity in the areas of security and disaster response, according to Japanese officials.

Nakatani and Fallon agreed that the two countries will keep sharing views on the situation in the South China Sea, where

tensions have remained high for several years as China becomes more aggressive in asserting its territorial claims, the officials said.

In a separate meeting with New Zealand Defence Minister Gerry Brownlee, Nakatani also agreed with him on the importance of the rule of law in dealing with issues related to the disputed waters, according to the officials.—Kyodo News

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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

Japan slams China's actions at sea, says no country can be 'outsider'

SINGAPORE — Japan is increasingly concerned about China's unilateral attempts to change the status quo in the South China Sea, Defence Minister Gen Nakatani said Saturday, stating no country can be an "outsider" when it comes to regional stability.

It was the Japanese government's clearest criticism of China's actions in the South China Sea, and came despite some recent improvements in the often-testy bilateral relationship.

In his speech at Asia's annual premier security forum, known as the Shangri-La Dialogue, in Singapore, Nakatani said he was "deeply concerned" over massive and rapid reclamation works, as well as the construction of outposts used for military purposes in some parts of the disputed sea.

"Such unilateral attempts to alter the status quo and consolidate such changes as faits accomplis considerably deviate from the maritime order based on the principles of the international community," he said.

Nakatani said those actions represent a "challenge" to the current rule-based global order.

He did not mention China by name when he spoke about major security challenges in the region, but it was obvious from the context that he was referring to its aggressive maritime actions over the last several years.

"We have two hands to entrust with our future. Which should we accept and enjoy —

the world of might makes right or that of the rule of law? The answer is obvious," he said.

"The peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region underpin the prosperity of the whole international community, not just that of the region," he said. "Therefore, no country can be an outsider on the issue."

China claims almost the whole of the South China Sea, which contains vital commercial shipping lanes and is a rich fishing ground that also holds potentially large undersea oil and gas reserves.

China has repeatedly criticised Japan and the United States, calling them outsiders, for what it sees as their meddling in its territorial disputes in the waters with smaller Asian claimants, including the Philippines, Malaysia and Viet Nam.

Japan and the United States, which are not claimants, have said they do not take sides in the disputes, but they have a say in the freedom of navigation and overflight in the area and the current order based on the rule of law.

Nakatani also expressed concern over "some extremely dangerous behaviours" in international airspace in the region, referring to a case last month of what the United States said was an "unsafe" interception of one of its military reconnaissance aircraft by two Chinese fighters.

While China immediately rejected the claim and instead



Visiting Japanese Defence Minister Gen Nakatani speaks with reporters in Singapore on 5 June, 2016. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

urged the United States to stop flying its military aircraft close to Chinese territory, the Japanese minister said, "As the security environment in this region is getting more and more challenging, it becomes more important for countries to fully observe the established international law."

"Especially, it is required for the major powers to exercise self-restraint in their actions in order to avoid any unexpected situation," he said.

In order to advance confidence-building measures, and maritime and airspace safety, Nakatani proposed holding additional meetings among Southeast Asian countries and their regional partners.

Japan's relations with China are not as bad as several years ago, when they were at their low-

est ebb in many decades due to disputes over a small group of uninhabited islands in the East China Sea and wartime issues.

The top political leaders of the two Asian powers have agreed to speed up the slow pace of mending fences and there has been increased communication between Tokyo and Beijing.

Nakatani did not pass up the opportunity to say that "our country is also concerned about unilateral behaviours in the East China Sea as they could escalate the situation."

But the most significant stumbling block for reconciliation in recent months has less to do with bilateral issues such as those pertaining to the Japanese-controlled, Chinese-claimed Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea than with differences of opinion on the South China Sea.

At the forum, formally called the 15th Asia Security Summit, Nakatani later disclosed to reporters that he had a chat with a high-ranking military official from Beijing and told him that the minister wants to visit China for talks with his Chinese counterpart Chang Wanquan.

China did not send Chang to Singapore and Adm. Sun Jianguo represented its delegation.

"Although there are problems, it is important that we talk," Nakatani was quoted as telling Sun, deputy chief of the Joint Staff Department of China's Central Military Commission. —Kyodo News

Anti-Korean group calls off hate-speech rally in Kawasaki amid protests

YOKOHAMA — An anti-Korean group called off a demonstration Sunday after about a dozen members of the group were surrounded by hundreds of citizens voicing opposition against the event in Kawasaki, just west of Tokyo.

The group against Korean residents living in Japan was planning to hold the rally around a public park in the city's Nakahara Ward, between 11:30am and 12:30pm, after a district court and the city government prohibited the holding of the demonstration in another ward last week.

The citizens opposing the group's activity started gathering around the park before the rally started and encircled group members. The opponents and the group members ended up in a scuffle, and the group called off the rally before noon.

The park is located about 8 kilometres from a part of Kawasaki Ward in the city home to a large ethnic Korean population.

According to the Kanagawa prefectural police, the group, headed by a man who is a Kawasaki resident, was to march on public roads around the park with about 10 to 50 people expected to take part in the rally aimed at "purifying Japan," after the police on Friday gave approval based on the Road Traffic Law for use of the roads for the event.

The police approval came after the Kanagawa branch of the Yokohama District Court handed down on Friday a provisional injunction that prohibited the group from holding demonstrations near the office of a social welfare corporation fighting ethnic discrimination in Kawasaki Ward.

Prior to the court decision, the Kawasaki city government on Monday turned down the group's request to use two parks in the ward for a demonstration on Sunday, given that the group has conducted a total of 13 anti-Korean speeches or demonstrations since 2013.

The city's decision came after Japan enacted a law aimed at deterring hate speech in May. But the law's effectiveness remains in question as it lacks measures to ban or provide punishment for the use of discriminatory language out of concerns over infringing on constitutionally guaranteed freedom of speech. —Kyodo News

Australia flooding forces hundreds into evacuation centres

SYDNEY — Torrential rain and high winds battered Australia's east coast on Sunday, leaving up to 26,000 homes without power while flooding forced hundreds of people into evacuation centres.

Residents from towns along the coast of New South Wales state were evacuated as flood waters rose, while state-owned electricity infrastructure firm Ausgrid said it expected the number of homes without power to rise.

The extreme weather also prompted Sydney Airport to close two of three runways, and forced a Qantas Airways Ltd flight from Shanghai to land at a military air base.

The New South Wales State Emergency Service issued evacuation orders for low-lying areas along the coast and assisted in rescuing stranded residents and livestock. Wild weather was expected to continue throughout

Sunday and flood warnings remained in place for towns along

the east coast. Australia is prone to extreme weather events such

as flooding, tropical cyclones and bushfires. —Reuters



Two men work on covering a damaged roof on a house in severe weather bringing strong winds and heavy rain hits the eastern coast of Australia near Coogee Beach in Sydney, on 5 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



US Secretary of State John Kerry speaks during a press conference with Mongolian Foreign Minister Lundeg Purevsuren following a meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ulan Bator, Mongolia, on 5 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Kerry warns Beijing over air defence zone for South China Sea

ULAN BATOR (Mongolia) — US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Sunday the United States would consider any Chinese establishment of an air defence zone over the South China Sea to be a “provocative and destabilizing act”.

US officials have expressed concern that an international court ruling expected in coming weeks on a case brought by the Philippines against China over its South China Sea claims could prompt Beijing to declare an air defence identification zone, or ADIZ, as it did over the East China Sea in 2013.

“We would consider an ADIZ...over portions of the

South China Sea as a provocative and destabilizing act which would automatically raise tensions and call into serious question China’s commitment to diplomatically manage the territorial disputes of the South China Sea,” Kerry said during a visit to Mongolia.

“So we urge China not to move unilaterally in ways that are provocative.”

Kerry will visit China after Mongolia.

China drew condemnation from Japan and the United States when it imposed its ADIZ, in which aircraft are supposed to identify themselves to Chinese authorities, above the

East China Sea.

China has neither confirmed nor denied it plans such a zone for the South China Sea, saying that such a decision would be based on the threat level and that it had every right to set one up.

China claims most of the South China Sea through which trillions of dollars in ship-borne trade passes every year and has been undertaking extensive reclamation and construction activities on islands and reefs it occupies.

Neighbours Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Viet Nam also have claims.—Reuters

Deny migrants right to seek asylum — Austrian foreign minister

ZURICH — Migrants who try to enter Europe illegally by boat should be denied the chance to apply for asylum and be sent back, Austria’s foreign minister said in a newspaper interview published on Sunday.

Austria’s centrist government promised tougher action on immigration after the far right’s candidate very nearly won a presidential election two weeks ago on voter concerns about Europe’s biggest peacetime migration crisis.

“Whoever boards a boat and tries to enter Europe illegally has ruined his chances of gaining asylum in Europe and will be sent back,” Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz told Swiss news-

paper *NZZ am Sonntag*.

Kurz, a member of the conservative OVP party, said Australia had shown it was possible to rescue migrants at sea without automatically letting them into the country.

“There is a country we can learn from. Australia had a similar problem. But the country managed to decide itself who is allowed to come, and didn’t leave this decision to people-smugglers,” the 29-year-old minister told the newspaper.

Australia is frequently criticised by human rights campaigners for detaining migrants intercepted at sea in camps in Papua New Guinea and Nauru as well as its attempts to resettle refu-

gees in poorer countries such as Cambodia.

Hundreds of people are estimated to have drowned trying to cross the Mediterranean this week as a power vacuum in Libya continues to allow people-smugglers to operate with impunity, taking advantage of waves of desperate people fleeing war and poverty.

Within the European Union, Kurz said the principle of free movement meant EU citizens were migrating to countries with the most generous social welfare systems. He said Austria should follow Britain in seeking ways to treat foreigners differently from its own citizens when it comes to benefit payments.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

German music festival cut short after lightning strikes

BERLIN — German authorities on Sunday cancelled the third and final day of a rock music festival attended by more than 90,000 fans after lightning strikes injured 80 people, some seriously, and more bad weather was forecast, festival organisers said.

The sell-out “Rock am Ring” festival, now in its 31st year and with the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Black Sabbath at the top of the billing, took place at the airport in Mendig, near the Nuerburgring motor racing track.

Festival organisers had halted performances for several hours on Saturday during another thunderstorm, temporarily sending some 92,500 fans to their cars and tents for safety, but vowing to resume the open-air event.

With more storms forecast, authorities in the area revoked the event’s license early on Sunday morning.

Organisers said they regretted the decision but accepted it because of the need to ensure the safety of fans. They asked participants to clear the festival grounds by noon on Sunday.—Reuters

Iran rejects terror charges in US report

DUBAI — Iran rejected terrorism charges raised against it in an annual US State Department report, Iranian media outlets reported on Sunday, saying the Islamic Republic merely supported nations fighting for freedom.

“The legitimate struggle of nations which are occupied ... are not examples of terrorism, and such charges in the American report are rejected,” said Foreign Ministry spokesman Hossein Jaber Ansari, quoted by state news agency IRNA.

Ansari in turn condemned “US military interferences and destructive support for terrorist groups in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Libya and Yemen”, the agency said.

As in previous years, the report cited Iran as the world’s biggest state sponsor of terrorism, saying Tehran supported conflicts in Syria and Iraq, and was implicated in violent Shi’ite opposition raids in Bahrain.

Bahrain has accused Iran of fomenting unrest in its country and of supplying weapons to Shi’ite militants behind several bomb attacks on security forces. Iran has denied the claims.

The US global terrorism report said on Thursday that the number of terrorist attacks around the world declined last year for the first time since 2012, and that such attacks were becoming more decentralised and diffuse.—Reuters

Three remain missing in tourist boat accident in central Viet Nam

HANOI — Three people are still missing on Sunday after a tourist boat capsized in Han River in Viet Nam’s central Da Nang City Saturday night.

Da Nang Municipal People’s Committee confirmed during a press briefing Sunday morning that there were 56 people on board the boat when the accident happened.

As many as 53 people have been rescued while three others remain missing, reported an official online newspaper of Da Nang.

Initial investigation results showed that the boat was overloaded which triggered the capsizing.

The committee has suspended all activities of tourist boats in Han River for safety review. The committee also requested relevant agencies to tighten departure procedures before resuming these activities. Searching for the missing tourists is underway.

Da Nang is a famous tourism destination in Viet Nam, locating some 600 km south of capital Hanoi.—Xinhua

17 killed as bus falls into ditch after hitting two cars on Mumbai highway

NEW DELHI — At least 17 people were killed and more than 40 others injured after a private bus crashed into two cars before plunging into a 20-feet deep ditch on Mumbai-Pune Expressway in India Sunday morning, a senior police official said.

“The accident took place around 5:30am (local time) when the speeding bus rammed into a car that had stopped on the side of the high-speed corridor to help the driver of another car that had also stopped to replace a flat tyre,” he said, on condition of anonymity.

What followed was a disaster.

The bus did not come to a halt after hitting the first stationary car and it went on to hit the other vehicle that had a deflated tyre, before careening into the 20-feet deep ditch on the left side of the expressway.—Xinhua

Opinion

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Development for the people, by the people

Khin Maung Aye

UNION Minister for Border Affairs Lieutenant-General Ye Aung spoke to residents of Myayabon Township, Rakhine State, last week, saying the state is endowed with natural resources, and if local people and organisations utilise these resources under the supervision of the Union government, all of Rakhine state will develop.

He also said the government has placed special emphasis on making concerted efforts through mutual love and trust as well as on achieving national reconciliation.

He encouraged regional authorities and local people to take part in the national reconciliation project, which is being spearheaded by State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi.

It is worth recalling that the president's office has formed the central committee for implementing stability, peace and development in Rakhine State and four working committees: the security, stability, peace and rule of law working committee; the immigration and citizenship scrutiny working committee; the resettlement and so-

cio-economic development working committee; and the United Nations organisations and international organisations co-operation working committee. These committees are now implementing their assigned tasks.

It would not be improper to point out that international development efforts have proved that success cannot be achieved without conscientious and concerted participation on the part of the local populace. Since development activities are implemented by the people themselves, their active and

effective participation is indispensable. Therefore, political leaders cannot stay aloof from the people and must take great care to find common ground and assure them that development activities are being implemented for their own sake.

The Global New Light of Myanmar believes Rakhine state will inevitably develop through the use of its natural endowment with resources. However, stability, peace and the rule of law must still be restored through the unified participation of local people and organisations.

Singapore: small but strong

Arakan Sein

MY WIFE and I paid a visit to Singapore for a family reunion with our three sons and stayed there for the whole month of April. As our elder sons go to work and the youngest one goes to school to Ngee Ann Polytechnic early in the morning, we had to stay at home in the apartment on the Sengkang East Road.

My wife was kept busy using facebook while I enjoyed reading the Straits Times; a copy of the paper was provided as a sort of introduction on my trip to the city-state by the Singapore Airline. Through the paper, I happened to know more about the outside world as well as the inside stories of Singapore. I appreciated the news reports by relatively young but experienced correspondents in big cities from around the world.

As far as I know Singapore is about 26 miles long and about 10 miles wide (277.6 sq.mile in 2015 after reclamations), meaning it is smaller than the Greater Yangon of Myanmar. It has a popula-

tion of over 5 million and the Singapore Strait is 190km long and links Asia to the Middle East and Europe and carries about 40 per cent of the world's trade with more than 1000 ships daily. With the help of the Changi Airport,

Singapore has become the most attractive place to do business in Southeast Asia.

As a matter of fact, Singapore and Lee Kuan Yew are inseparable: he built Singapore from a poor British outpost to a modern developed city-state which enjoyed GDP per capita income of US\$ 56,284 which was higher than that of the United States in 2014. Indeed, Lee Kuan Yew was an exceptional leader who balanced authoritarianism with pragmatism. As the saying "you reap what you sow" goes, Singaporeans today keep enjoying the benefits what Lee Kuan Yew built during his time of service in government.

Politically today young leaders never hesitate to get involved with issues with local or international whatever it maybe; it means they have a voice. In

this connection, it can be seen vividly. Minister for Home Affairs and law K. Shanmugam said at the United Nations meeting that Singapore would not soften its drug policies. He did not even mince words in his rebuttal to the European Union and the United States at the UN General Assembly in New York. Again Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan said Singapore could not accept 'might is right', expressing his great interest in seeing territorial disputes in the South China Sea settled peacefully. And Singapore's Ambassador-at-large accused China of meddling in internal affairs of Asean countries after the second economic power signed an agreement with Laos, Cambodia and Brunei.

Economically infrastructure is excellent: air, rail and road. Changi Airport, one of the best in the world, handles the landings and takeoffs of almost two thousand aircraft daily and in 2015 it played an important role to attract almost 55 million tourists to a tiny state of over 5 million population. Just imagine

how could it handle efficiently the tourist arrivals, the ten times higher than its population. MRT, LRT, cars and buses load and unload passengers respectively, sending locals and foreigners alike to their destinations in a relatively short time. Owning a car is never easy for there are fewer parking spaces and higher parking fees. On a sultry afternoon my sons took us to the East Coast to enjoy the evening breeze. Wow! There are thousands of lights flickering from ships anchored which brightened up the surface of the sea. At the same time, minute by minute a plane shoots up from Changi Airport just like a firefly.

In the morning I went out for a walk together with my wife along the LRT warehouse to a riverfront in the Sengkang East area. We walked side by side as usual; we were irritated by ringing bells from uni-, bi-, pedaled and powered cycles on the pavements which are virtually meant for pedestrians. Very few birds—sparrows, pigeons, doves, mynahs and other strange birds—are seen among the grass and in trees and people are allowed to feed them, my sons told me. But I am unhappy when I read an article in which the writer regarded

the Javan Mynahs as pests and wanted to eradicate them by putting them in soups in restaurants because of their numbers and their intrusion into the food courts in the city-state. Can you imagine a forest without birds; there are relatively few birds. They beautify forests and they should be spared. I feel fine to find Singapore free of mosquitoes, flies, stray dogs. Last but not least, I would like to point out prices are higher and higher on many items such as alcohol and cigarettes; a good policy should be implemented as Singapore has no resources and is buying water from Malaysia.

I would like to conclude my article by quoting Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's remarks on his visit to Israel: Israel's identity is as a Jewish state; Singapore's identity is emphatically not a Chinese nation, but a multi-racial, multi-religious society. That was the reason for Singapore's existence. Singapore is strategically located on the 190km long Singapore Strait and therefore it happens to be a business hub for the world. And I sincerely believe it will thrive for many years to come because of the strong foundation laid down by its founder Lee Kuan Yew.

"Self-Studying"

Shin Ku Ku

WE are making the continuous learning by holding on to a proverb of "It is never too old to learn". When we are over four years old, we started learning to attend the school. We learned in

the primary, basic education and university levels studying lectures by heart. As a result, the dynasty of Myanmar kingdoms that we have already learnt is until studied when we are at work.

To answer the question that did we acquire all the knowledge from our learning particularly hesitates.

The reason is that we could not freely contemplate our thoughts or ideas. At the age of over twenty five, we have a chance to attend the Diploma or Master courses just as the international courses. Whilst the exam is open book system, all of us are very agreeable. Neverthe-

less, we face a lot of problems in reality. The teachers give the text books. We study by ourselves and make a discussion in the class. Sometimes, we are on the right way, sometimes not but the teachers make clear our point of views.

Because of this we read a lot of books to be comprehensive and also link the study with the concept. On the other hand, it is committed to our memory. After

the course, we must apply them effectively and efficiently in the relative atmosphere.

One of my beloved teachers said that the certificate is not very important as it is just a paper. The crucial thing is to get the skills that are equally our investments such as time, money, energy and so on. Therefore, I wish all the students learn in a right way and also acquire not only knowledge but also skills.

BFM restores defunct dam in Ngathayauk Tsp



A local youth participating in restoration of the defunct dam. PHOTO : KBZ

A DAM that has not been benefited local farmers in Ngathayauk Township for more than 30 years due to deposits of silt and sediment was been successfully dredged by the KBZ Brighter Future Myanmar foundation (BFM). The restoration of the irri-

gation facility on the Magyi Shwegu River near Sat Sat Yo Village in Nyaung U District was completed yesterday at a cost of more than K25 billion.

The dam is expected to benefit more than 10,000 people from seven villages in the township.

Following a report on the condition of the dam by U Kyaw Thu, the chairman of the Free Funeral Service Society, the dredging of the dam started on 1 March 2016 with the use of heavy machinery, including bulldozers.

Rains brought by Cyclone Roanu, which crossed Upper Myanmar around 22 May, have flowed into the dam.

“We are very delighted to see rain water flow into the dam and want to express thanks to Brighter Future Myanmar and U Kyaw Thu,” said U Aung Aung, a local resident.

The dam was built in 1967, though it has faced degradation due to silt and sediment for more than 30 years.—GNLM

Myanmar, South Korea football teams to face off on 7 June

A FRIENDLY match will be held between the Myanmar women’s football team and the South Korea team at 5pm on 7 June at Thuwunna National Stadium in Yangon.

As part of the preparations for the ASEAN games, the programme will include

two friendly football matches between the two teams. Their first tournament was held on Saturday at Yangon’s Thuwunna Stadium. South Korea beat Myanmar 5-0.

The South Korean team qualified for last year’s Women’s World Cup, and six play-

ers who participated in that event will play in Myanmar this week.

The Myanmar team’s Head Coach Roger Reijners believes friendly matches will bolster the performance of the Myanmar team in international tournaments.—KP/Union Daily

Tatmadawmen carry out Communal sanitation work in Mawlamyaing, Mon State



Tatmadawmen clearing litters and needs.

TO allow the students an opportunity to learn their lessons in a clean and safe environment this academic year (2016-2017) members of Tatmadaw of Mawlamyaing Command

under the South-East Command cleaned litters and weeds, and cut the branches of trees and unblocked the drains for proper flow of water inside and outside of the Basic Edu-

cation High School of Mawlamyaing (ShweNatTaung) in Mawlamyaing town, Mon State on Saturday 4 June.—Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

POEM:

A Visit to Nay Pyi Taw

In Nay Pyi Taw a fortnight ago a public forum was held at the invitation of the organizers I did fly to attend,

The road from the airport was through wide spaces covered by farmland and green woodland in places, the traffic was light, compared to that of Yangon City hence the ride, to the hotel was relaxed and happy.

Driving thru the ‘Hotel Zone’ to my hotel’s location saw many hotels with unitized type accommodation of various designs spread out over large areas of land linked by roads lined by shady green trees, shrubs and landscaped gardens, and my hotel even had a big lake the road around enabled safe walking for health sake. All in all it was quite different setting from the stories of so called ‘concrete jungles’ and the bustling cities.

Later, cruising the wide ‘green’ lined roads of Nay Pyi Taw viewed the magnificent buildings housing the Hluttaw designed along distinct architecture of the Myanmar, unlike contemporary designs, as if in a deliberate gesture the architect had decided to revive Myanmar Culture.

The Capital, Nay Pyi Taw is the home of the Hluttaw and it also is the home of the Myanmar Tatmadaw.

The Hluttaw, known as the lifeblood of democracy desired by the people all through Myanmar’s history by the same people of whom the Tatmadaw was born which Nation and people to serve and protect has sworn the same people elected the members of the Hluttaw that has formed the present Government in Nay Pyi Taw.

It’s the humble hope of the layman that all three Institution link hands for democracy and developing the Nation.

Lokethar

People’s Forum

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The article in opinion column titled “Agriculture remains the mainstay of national economic growth” written by Kyaw Thura, appeared in GNLM on 31.05 2016 reminds us to practically promote and respect the farmers who dedicate their life to generate agriculture sector which is the mainstay of national economic growth. I really appreciate Kyaw Thura’s analysis on agriculture and absolute situation of the living standards in rural areas in Myanmar. The newly appointed government should be aware that it is high time to support or promote the life of the farmers and agriculture sector.

Whenever we travel in our country by car or by train, we can see the poor living standard of the majority of farmers living in rural areas. Although Myanmar countryside is beautiful, the farmers still face hardship life and land grab issue miserably. In these circumstances, their life is gloomy. As a result, younger generation of the farmers nowadays change the normal livelihood to new livelihood or move to big cities and do the odd jobs aimlessly. I am sure the urbanites notice that most of the youngsters from the rural areas are working as casual laborers in tea-shops, workshops and at the harbor or railway station. Unless the government can guarantee the rural youth for their original livelihood, the number of farmers will decline sharply. Consequently, the decline in the number of farmers or farming workforce is detrimental to agriculture in Myanmar.

I do express deep concern about that and would like to earnestly urge the incumbent government to fulfill the essential requirements of the farmers across the country. Hopefully the government will ardently carry out the task for promoting the life of farmers so as to increase the agricultural productivity.

Being an agro-based country, 70 per cent of Myanmar people known as farmers depend on farming for their livelihood. As you know, the farmers passed down their livelihood from generation to generation and they serve our country as farmers dutifully. Rice and other crops are always sufficient for domestic consumption because of the huge work force of the farmers. Therefore, the farmers are regarded as our benefactors, but they need social security, safety and rights etc. In return of gratitude, we have to save our farmers from crises and poverty in collaboration with the present government practically and sympathetically.

Truly
Hein Htet

Turkish warplanes target Kurdish militants, at least 27 killed — army

ISTANBUL — Turkish warplanes struck Kurdish militant targets in northern Iraq and southeast Turkey and the army killed 27 fighters near its borders with Iraq and Iran, the armed forces said on Sunday.

Air strikes on Saturday destroyed gun positions and shelters and caves used by Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militants in the Gara area of northern Iraq and the countryside of Lice district in Diyarbakir province, the statement said.

It did not give a death toll but state-run Anadolu Agency cited security sources as saying small

groups of PKK militants were killed in those strikes.

Separately, seven PKK militants were killed in a clash in Semdinli near the Iraqi and Iranian borders on Saturday, while air strikes in Semdinli on Friday killed 20 PKK fighters, it said.

The air strikes in Lice were conducted after the Diyarbakir governor's office declared a curfew there on Saturday. It said the curfew was lifted on Sunday morning after the completion of military operations there.

Turkish security forces on Friday concluded operations targeting PKK fighters in the town

of Nusaybin near the Syrian border and in Sirnak near the border with Iraq.

More than 1,000 people, mostly PKK fighters, were killed in three months of clashes in those areas, security sources say. The fighting resumed in the largely Kurdish southeast last July after the collapse of a two-year-old ceasefire. The PKK, designated a terrorist group by Turkey and its Western allies, launched its insurgency in 1984 and more than 40,000 people have been killed in the conflict, now at its most intense level in two decades.—Reuters

Taliban attack kills five at Afghan court

KABUL — At least five people were killed on Sunday when Taliban gunmen attacked a courthouse in eastern Afghanistan, an attack the insurgent group said was in retaliation for the government execution of six militants in May.

Two attackers opened fire at an appeals court in Pul-e Alam in Logar province, just south of the Afghan capital city of Kabul, according to the province's deputy police chief Nesar Ahmad Abdul Rahimzai.

Among the five killed in the attack was the newly named head of the appeals court, Ra-

himzai said.

The gunmen injured at least 19 other people before being killed by security forces, he added.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, with spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid saying it was in response to the government's execution of six Taliban prisoners in early May.

The executions followed a deadly attack in Kabul that killed at least 64 people, prompting President Ashraf Ghani to declare that the "time of unjustified amnesty" for insurgents was over.—Reuters

Saudi Arabia expands its anti-Iran strategy beyond the Middle East

RIYADH — Under King Salman, Saudi Arabia is expanding its confrontation with Iran well beyond the Middle East, no longer relying heavily on Western allies to smother Tehran's ambitions outside the Arab world.

Since Salman came to power early last year, and Tehran struck a nuclear deal with world powers, Riyadh has adjusted its strategy for countering the efforts of its Shi'ite Muslim rival to build influence in Africa, Asia and even Latin America.

Most notably, the Sunni power has used Muslim networks to push states into cutting off contacts with Iran, including by creating an Islamic Coalition against terrorism without inviting Tehran to join.

"Iran is the one that isolated itself by supporting terrorism," Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir told a recent news conference. "That is why the world reacted to Iran, and particularly the Islamic world, and basically said 'enough is enough'."

Tehran denies it sponsors terrorism, and points to its record of fighting the Sunni Muslim militants of Islamic State through backing for Shi'ite militias in Iraq and President Bashar al-Assad in Syria.

Riyadh is alarmed by Tehran's support for the Shi'ite Hezbollah movement in Lebanon, and cut off military aid to the Beirut government after it failed to condemn attacks on Saudi diplomatic missions in Iran. Likewise, Saudi forces have launched a war on Iranian-allied Houthi rebels in Yemen.

But all this is part of its long-standing diplomatic, economic and military efforts to contain what it sees as a pernicious expansion of Iranian activity in Arab nations. Now it is attempting to orchestrate support elsewhere, including from countries such as Pakistan and Malaysia through its creation last November of the co-



(L-R) Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, Saudi King Salman, and Saudi Arabia's Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman stand together as Saudi Arabia's cabinet agrees to implement a broad reform plan known as Vision 2030 in Riyadh, on 25 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

alition against terrorism.

"In many ways the dimensions of the competition between Iran and Saudi Arabia are beginning to go beyond the Middle East. This is an interesting development that historically hasn't been the case," said Mehran Kamrava, a professor at Georgetown University-Qatar.

The strategy partly responds to implementation of the nuclear deal in January. Riyadh fears this will give Iran more scope to push its interests internationally by releasing it from many of the sanctions which have crippled its economy.

With even the United States now saying Western banks can resume legitimate business with Tehran, the Saudis believe their main Western ally is gradually disengaging from the region.

"They understand the old international order is dead and they have to take responsibility," said a senior diplomat in Riyadh.

But the strategy is also driven by King Salman's belief that Iranian influence has grown only because nobody has stood up to it, said Mustafa Alani, an Iraqi secu-

rity expert with close ties to the Saudi interior ministry.

The coalition against terrorism falls into this context. When chiefs of staff from 34 Muslim states met after a joint military exercise in late March, a cartoon in the Saudi daily Asharq al-Awsat, owned by the ruling family, showed a bomber dropping leaflets with a no-entry sign onto Iran.

The coalition, which caused some confusion as to its scope and membership when Riyadh first announced it, is now moving forward and work to establish a "co-ordination centre" may be formalised during the Muslim holy month which starts shortly.

"The next step is the meeting of defence ministers, perhaps during Ramadan. At the same time we prepare a coordination centre in Riyadh," said Saudi Brigadier General Ahmed al-Asseri.

This centre will have permanent staff members from each participating country, Asseri said, and would be a place where states could either request help in dealing with militancy or offer military, security or other aid.

Although not explicitly

aimed at countering Iran, the coalition includes neither Tehran nor its allied government in Iraq. The alliance also aims to counter comment in some Western media that while Iran and its Shi'ite allies are fighting Islamic State, Sunni Saudi Arabia supports jihadist militancy on some levels.

"This new coalition is basically to get the worldwide Islamic support for Saudi Arabia to lead the fight against terrorism and take the flag from Iran," said Alani.

Whether the coalition members see it that way is another matter.

Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, spokesman for Pakistan's Foreign Ministry, praised Riyadh for setting up the coalition and said Islamabad would be happy to share expertise.

But he also said the arrangements would take time to develop and added that Pakistan sought "brotherhood" between Islamic states and was therefore concerned about the escalation in tension between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Beyond the coalition initia-

tive, Riyadh is trying to win the support of India and encourage it to isolate Iran. So far it has achieved mixed results. After Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited both countries last month, Saudi energy sales to India grew but New Delhi also agreed to build a port in Iran.

Riyadh's hosting of a summit of South American and Arab League states last year was also partly aimed at pushing back Iran, said a Saudi analyst who sometimes carries out diplomatic functions for the government.

Former president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad visited Venezuela, Nicaragua, Cuba and Ecuador in 2012 seeking diplomatic support from the left-wing states, with little apparent success.

Some African countries have followed many Arab League states in recent months in cutting diplomatic ties with Iran. This followed the storming of Riyadh's Tehran embassy in reaction to Saudi Arabia's execution of a Shi'ite cleric in January.

On Monday, Zambia's president appeared in Riyadh on an official visit soon after speaking out against Tehran.

Iran has devoted money to winning friends across Africa, investing in local industries and paying to spread its Shi'ite version of Islam in Muslim states. Playing on its anti-imperialist credentials, Tehran's goal appeared to be winning wider support at the United Nations.

Not only is soft power at stake. In 2012 two Iranian warships docked at Port Sudan, just across the Red Sea from the Saudi coast, following years of close ties between Khartoum and Tehran.

Since then Riyadh has invested around \$11 billion in Sudan and ignored international arrest warrants on President Omar al-Bashir to allow him to visit the kingdom. In January, Khartoum cut off ties with Tehran.—Reuters

As Inter Milan deal nears, Chinese retail giant Suning eyes soccer empire



Customers look at products in the hall of a Suning Appliance shop in Beijing in 2011. PHOTO: REUTERS

SHANGHAI — Chinese retail giant Suning Commerce Group Co Ltd, set to tie up a deal for Italian soccer club Inter Milan, is already eyeing bigger ambitions: controlling a global sports empire stretching from soccer clubs to online broadcasting.

Suning and Inter Milan are due to make an announcement in the eastern Chinese city of Nanjing on Monday, widely expected to confirm that Suning will buy a majority stake in the Italian soccer club.

Amid a wider push by China to increase its standing in the game, Suning's deal for the 2010

European champions is just the start. The Chinese electronics retailer is seeking deals to help create a global sporting "ecosystem", according to a Suning Sports Group document seen by Reuters.

This network would include club ownership, sports media rights, player agencies, training institutions, broadcast platforms, content production and sports-related e-commerce, the document shows.

"Suning Sports aims, through strategic expansion and acquisitions, to establish a sporting ecosystem along the whole supply chain," it said in a roughly 20-

page presentation outlining its ambitions for the sports business.

A majority stake in Inter Milan would be a big step towards this. It would be a watershed moment for China's investment in the game, making Suning the first mainland Chinese business to control a major European soccer power.

Suning will also look to become a leader globally in sports media and online, including "creating high-quality sports content" and "establishing a professional broadcast platform", it said in the presentation. Suning declined to comment.—Reuters

Jaguar Land Rover sues Chinese automaker over Evoque copycat — source

BEIJING — Jaguar Land Rover is suing Chinese automaker Jiangling Motor for allegedly copying the British firm's Range Rover Evoque, a person with direct knowledge of the matter said — a rare move by a foreign automaker to fight copycats in the world's biggest autos market.

A spokesman for JLR, owned by India's Tata Motors, said in brief emailed comments to Reuters that a court in Beijing's eastern Chaoyang district "served Jiangling with newly filed actions surrounding copyright and unfair competition." He declined to elaborate.

The suit relates to Jiangling's Landwind X7 sport utility vehicle copying the design of the Evoque, JLR's first China-made model that went on sale last year, said the person with

knowledge of the legal proceedings, who is not authorised to talk to the media and didn't want to be named.

A spokesman for Landwind declined to comment.

Despite widespread and often blatant copying, global automakers generally don't take legal action in China as they feel the odds of winning against local firms are low. Also, a lawsuit can be bad for branding if the Chinese public think a foreign company is bullying domestic competitors.

If JLR wins its case, it could prompt other automakers to also take legal action, said Chen Jihong, a Beijing-based lawyer at Zhong Lun Law Firm, speeding up a shift to stronger enforcement of intellectual property rights.—Reuters



A Landwind X7 is seen outside a dealership in Shanghai, China, on 3 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Hyundai Motor plans luxury electric car under Genesis brand — executive

SEOUL — South Korean automaker Hyundai Motor Co plans to launch a luxury all-electric vehicle under its Genesis marque to build out the lineup of its new premium brand, Senior Vice President Manfred Fitzgerald said.

"We will definitely go as Genesis brand down the road of alternative propulsions and it is very, very obvious that EV is definitely on the map," Fitzgerald told reporters on the sidelines of an auto show in Busan, without elaborating on details such as a launch date.

"I think full electric cars will be the future in the auto industry," said the former Lamborghini director who recently joined Hyundai and leads strategy for Genesis, which broke out as a standalone luxury brand in November.

Genesis is a departure for Hyundai Motor, which had earned its reputation as a value

brand, and is seen aiming at tapping growing demand for premium cars with higher prices to boost flagging profits.

But the brand faces a challenge of carving out its own identity and differentiating itself from its group brands — Hyundai and Kia Motors — as well as German competitors, analysts say.

"The main goal is to have a strong differentiation within brands. No design overlap," said Luc Donckerwolke, senior vice president at Hyundai Design Centre. Genesis is a key initiative for Hyundai Motor Vice Chairman and heir apparent Chung Eui-sun, who is being groomed to succeed his father and chairman Chung Mong-ko.

"He is involved in all decisions," Fitzgerald said.

Hyundai Motor plans to add a diesel version of its Genesis G80 large sedan in the first half of next year, the company said in a statement.—Reuters

5th Int'l Environment Fair held in capital of Colombia



BOGOTA — An exhibitor interacts with a visitor during the 5th International Environment Fair (FIMA, for its acronym in Spanish), in Bogota, Colombia, on 3 June 2016. According to the local press, the fifth edition of the FIMA mainly seeks the promotion and marketing of environmental goods and services, and is expected that 16,000 assistants learn about the initiatives of companies on topics such as environmental education, climate change, waste management, renewable energy, among others. The fair was carried out from 1 to the 4th June. PHOTO: XINHUA

Clinton hits rivals on immigration in California campaign swing

LOS ANGELES — Hillary Clinton fought on two fronts in California on Saturday as she sought to wrap up her battle with Bernie Sanders for the Democratic nomination, taking aim at him and at Donald Trump, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, with attacks on their immigration stances.

Both Clinton and Sanders campaigned across California, stopping in immigrant communities, big cities and the agricultural heartland on the final weekend before Tuesday's primary in the nation's biggest state.

Clinton used a stop at a Los Angeles-area college to criticise Trump for making "hateful, very prejudicial" statements about immigrants and Sanders for voting against a 2007 comprehensive immigration reform bill.

"I was in the Senate then, so was President Obama and so was Senator Sanders. President Obama and I voted for it, Senator Sanders voted against it. And that ended it," Clinton said.

"It was heartbreaking," she added.

Latinos comprise almost 40 per cent of California's population of roughly 39 million.

Clinton, also a former secretary of state, is expected to sew up the party nomination on Tuesday, when California is one of six state holding nominating contests. Except for Washington, DC, those states are holding the last Democratic nominating contests before the party's July convention. Clinton needs a win in heavily Democratic California to begin unifying her party.



A Hillary supporter yells out with a picture of Donald Trump on her phone as US Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton speaks during a campaign stop in Fresno, California, United States on 4 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Though Sanders, a US senator of Vermont, faces nearly insurmountable odds to become the Democratic

nominee, he has invested heavily in California, where a win could pressure the party to adopt some of the

populist policies that have driven his campaign. Polls show Sanders has chipped away at Clinton's lead in the

state, where Clinton and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, have built a vast network of supporters, including increasingly powerful Hispanic voters.

Recent tracking polls showed Clinton having a 2 to 10 percentage point lead over Sanders in California.

At a town hall in Los Angeles, Sanders promised to fight for comprehensive immigration reform and said that trade deals, over which he and Clinton have frequently sparred, funnel "cheap corn" into Mexico and "drive small family farmers off their land."

California is home to one-fourth of the immigrant population in the United States, at around 10 million people, and also home to one-fourth of the 11.3 million illegal immigrants in the country.—Reuters

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

1. Open Tender is invited for supply of the following items in Euro:

Sr No	Tender No	Description
1.	15(T)1/MR(E) 2016-2017	- Spare Parts for Automatic Levelling, Lining & Tamping Machine ED/ALL TM No.01&02 (238)Items - Spare Parts for Flash Butt Welding Machine (44)Items - Spare Parts for Profile Ballast Regulating Machine (107)Items

Closing Date & Time-6.7.2016(Wednesday)(14:30)Hrs

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 6.6.2016 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon. Phone: 95-1-291985, 291994

Caribbean summit shows region's capability for consensus

HAVANA — The Summit of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), which concluded here Saturday, showed the region's capability to agree on positions on dealing with common challenges, said Cuban leader Raul Castro.

Agreements reached at the summit proved that the Caribbean nations can find a consensus on sensitive issues and persevere in search for their solutions, said Castro in a speech at the end of the summit.

The summit was attended by 19 prime ministers and heads of state of the 25 member-countries of the organisation.

The Cuban leader and host of the regional meeting stressed that the Declaration of Havana agreed upon at the summit ratifies the ACS founding principles as a mechanism for consultation, consensus and cooperation to adopt common positions and promote integration.

The Declaration recognises the threats and challenges faced by the Caribbean nations in order to reach sustainable development, and the need to strengthen regional cooperation to solve problems posed by economic crisis and climate change.

The Declaration ratifies as well the responsibility of the member countries for building more just societies, protecting human rights and eradicating hunger and poverty.—Xinhua

US Navy officer arrested for drunk driving in Okinawa

NAHA/TOKYO — A US Navy officer was arrested Sunday on suspicion of drunk driving in Okinawa, where a US base worker's alleged involvement in the death of a local woman last month has sparked anger among residents.

The incident prompted Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida to lodge a protest with US Ambassador Caroline Kennedy. The Defence Ministry also protested to Lt. Gen. Lawrence Nicholson, the US military commander in Okinawa.

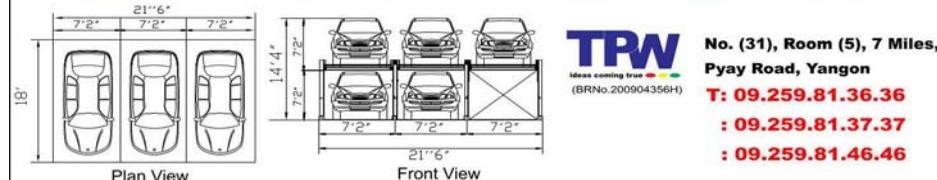
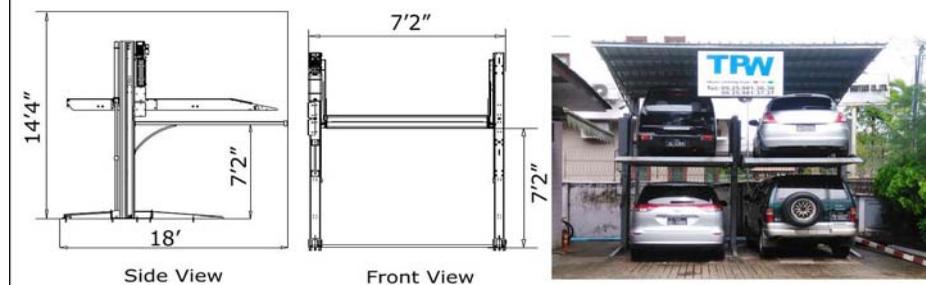
The Okinawa prefectural police arrested 21-year-old Aimee Mejia, a petty officer 2nd class stationed at the US Kadena base.

She is suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol in the town of Kadena late Saturday, crossing into the opposite lane and colliding with two vehicles, the police said.

A 35-year-old woman in one of the vehicles struck by the suspect's car suffered a broken breast bone and a 30-year-old man in the other vehicle got a bruise to his arm. The suspect was unhurt.

Mejia's alcohol reading in a breath test was six times the level allowed by law, according to the police.—Kyodo News

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MECHANICAL CAR PARKING



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: 09.259.81.37.37
: 09.259.81.46.46

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Date 6 June 2016

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France seeks EU role in upholding navigation freedom in South China Sea

SINGAPORE — France weighed in on the South China Sea issue on Sunday with Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian proposing that European navies step up their presence there to ensure freedom of navigation and over-flight. “Could we not have the European navies coordinate in order to ensure a regular visible presence in maritime areas in Asia? Soon I will be detailing this proposal to my European

counterparts,” Le Drian said in a speech at the annual Shangri-La Dialogue, Asia’s biggest security forum.

He said the South China Sea issue “directly concerns” France and other EU members not only because of their economic interest in maintaining freedom of navigation, but also because of their belief in “firmness when the rule of law is violated.”

Le Drian’s proposal

echoes the US justification of its enhanced naval presence in the South China Sea to protect vital commercial shipping lanes through which an estimated \$5.3 trillion worth of trade flows annually.

The Freedom of Navigation Operations, however, have brought the United States into confrontation with China, which is locked in a protracted row with the Philippines and Viet Nam, in particular, over islands

and reefs in the South China Sea, a rich fishing ground that also holds potentially large undersea oil and gas reserves.

Le Drian said that since beginning of this year, French naval ships have been deployed three times through the hotly contested waters, with a view to contributing to peace and stability in the region.

“France will sail her ships and fly her aircraft wherever international law

allows and operational needs require,” he told the gathering, organised by London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies.

The French defence minister regretted the lack of “substantial progress” in forging a regional code of conduct in the South China Sea, which has been under on-and-off negotiation for years between China and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

China has also raised the ire of its neighbours in the region by conducting massive land reclamation at the disputed islands and reefs it occupies.

“If the rule of law isn’t respected in South China Sea today, it will be threatened in the Arctic, in the Mediterranean and elsewhere tomorrow,” Le Drian said, stressing the need for the international community to act firmly. —Kyodo News

Australian diver killed by shark, 2nd fatal attack in a week

SYDNEY — A 60-year-old woman was killed by a large shark off Australia’s west coast Sunday, less than a week after another fatal shark attack in the area, according to local police.

The woman was diving with a friend at a popular spot some 2 kilometres off the coast of Mindarie, north of Perth, when she was attacked shortly before noon.

She had severe injuries consistent with a shark attack and is believed to have died before being brought back to shore, police said.

They said three men in a fishing boat, who arrived to help after the attack and

maneuvered their vessel between the woman’s diving companion and the shark, reported that it was longer than their 5.3-metre boat.

Beaches in the Mindarie area have been closed, while Western Australia’s Department of Fisheries confirmed it will set shark capture gear near the site of the attack.

Fourteen people are known to have died from shark attacks in the western state, of which Perth is the capital, since 2000, causing public jitters.

The latest fatal attack came six days after a 29-year-old surfer lost his

leg to a suspected great white shark, some 100 kilometres south of Mindarie, and died Friday night in hospital.

The day after that attack, a large shark was reportedly trapped and killed nearby on baited drum lines.

In response to the heightened concerns, the state government has in recent years boosted efforts to monitor for sharks, including extended aerial surveillance, and to set up a rapid-response system to kill those considered to pose a serious threat to public safety.—Kyodo News

Kumamoto quake evacuees start moving into temporary housing

KUMAMOTO (Japan) — Evacuees who left their homes in the southwestern prefecture of Kumamoto after strong quakes in April started moving into temporary housing Sunday.

There are still 7,000 evacuees in the prefecture, but the planned construc-

tion of 4,600 temporary units is feared to fall behind schedule with the region having already entered the rainy season and local governments facing difficulties securing enough land for the buildings. As of Sunday, 90 units in the town of Kosa had been offered to

evacuees and about 2,600 are scheduled to be completed in the prefecture by mid-July. The Kumamoto government will also make some 3,600 commercial rental housing units available for those who cannot return to their homes.—Kyodo News



Mayumi Sakumoto, an evacuee from a series of powerful earthquakes in southwestern Japan, tests the kitchen facilities in her new temporary housing unit in the town of Kosa in Kumamoto Prefecture on 5 June 2016. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

World Environment Day celebrated in Nepal



KATHMANDU — Nepalese children participate in an awareness rally to mark the World Environment Day in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 5 June, 2016. The World Environment Day is celebrated with the theme of “Zero tolerance for the illegal wildlife trade” this year.

PHOTO: XINHUA

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (8 / 2016)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-010(16-17)	Spare for Deepending Accessories (Drill Collar & Substitute) (11) Items	US\$
(2)	IFB-011(16-17)	Spares for A-1700 PT Triplex Pump Ex USS Oil Well Drilling Rig (27) Items	US\$
(3)	IFB-012(16-17)	Spares for FA-1600 Triplex Pump Ex EMSCO Drilling Rig (19) Items	US\$
(4)	IFB-013(16-17)	Spares for National Power Slash Pump K 700 A Ex National 55 Drilling Rig (27) Items	US\$
(5)	IFB-014(16-17)	Spares for National Drive Group (13) Items	US\$
(6)	IFB-015(16-17)	Spares for Mack Truck (11) Items	US\$
(7)	IFB-016(16-17)	4” ERW API 5L Grade X-46 MS 3 Layer PE Coated Steel Line Pipe (PSL-2) (8050) MTR	US\$
(8)	IFB-017(16-17)	Electrical Spares for USS Oil Well Rig (9) Items	US\$
(9)	IFB-018(16-17)	5 1/2” Bridge Plug and Adapter Kit (2) Items	US\$
(10)	IFB-019(16-17)	Liquid Spere (200) Can	US\$
(11)	IFB-020(16-17)	Spares for CAT HEAD Ex EMSCO Drilling Rig (8) Items	US\$
(12)	DMP/L-008(16-17)	14.00 x 25, 24 PLY Tyre with Tube & Flap (30) Nos	Ks
(13)	DMP/L-009(16-17)	1 1/4” Manila Rope (100) Coils & 1 1/2” Manila Rope (20) Coils	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time - 30-6-2016, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 6TH June, 2016 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411097 / 411206

Kim Kardashian's morning skincare routine costs USD 1,230

LOS ANGELES — Reality TV star Kim Kardashian maintains her pristine face by using a consistent rotation of luxurious products, worth USD 1,230.

The “Keeping Up with the Kardashians” star revealed her morning routine consists of four products by “La Mer”. Kardashian uses “The Perfecting Treatment” (USD 240 for 1.7 oz), “The Concentrate” (USD 440 for 1.7 oz), “The Renewal Oil” (USD 240 for 1 oz) and “Creme de la Mer” (USD 310 for 2 oz), reported Us magazine.

The 35-year-old “Keeping Up With the Kardashian” starts her day by scrubbing her face with Kiko’s Scrub & Peel wipes (which retail for about 6 pounds in the UK). She revealed she often turns to Neutrogena Night Calming Makeup Remover Cleansing Towelettes.—PTI



Reality TV star Kim Kardashian. PHOTO: REUTERS



Taylor Swift. PHOTO: REUTERS

Taylor Swift surprises fan with performance at his wedding

LOS ANGELES — Singer Taylor Swift surprised her fan Max Singer and his wife Kenya Smith with a special performance on their

wife performance.

The 26-year-old songstress coordinated the “Blank Space” performance with Max’s sister Ali, reported E! online. “So Taylor up to my cousins wedding... #Surprised,” Gage Simmons captioned a video of the singer. In April, Ali reached out to the “Shake It Off” crooner, about the death of her mother in a touching letter, telling Swift how her brother had wed his wife in the hospital so their mom wouldn’t miss out on one of the biggest days of her son’s life. Max and his mom even danced to the singer’s hit “Blank Space” for their mother and son before she passed away.

Swift also made a special card for the married couple, writing “So it’s gonna be forever” in watercolours with a floral circle.—PTI

Selena Gomez aims to ‘defeat discrimination’ with concert

LOS ANGELES — Singer-actress Selena Gomez has chosen to move forward with her North Carolina concert despite the state’s controversial anti-LGBT law. Several performers, including Gomez’s friends Demi Lovato and Nick Jonas, have decided not to put on shows in the state to protest the House Bill 2 Public Facilities Privacy and Security Act, reported People magazine.

The legislation, also

known as ‘HB2’ or the ‘bathroom bill’, was signed into law by politicians earlier this year (16), forcing all transgender people to use gender-specific public restrooms. “I am very fortunate to have grown up in a home where I learned from an early age that everyone should be treated equally,” she said.

“I went back and forth on whether I should cancel my concert in North Carolina and ultimately I think what is right for me is to move forward with my show and donate a portion of the proceeds to Equality North Carolina and their effort to defeat this act of discrimination.—PTI

‘Britain’s loneliest dog’ lands role in Hollywood movie

LONDON — ‘Britain’s loneliest dog’, who has been living in an animal shelter for six years and has been rejected by 18,000 potential owners, has landed a role in the new Transformers movie.

Freya the Staffordshire bull terrier was dubbed ‘Britain’s loneliest dog’ after spending almost her entire life living in animal shelters, watching more than 50 of her kennel mates be re-homed during her time at the centre.

Freya was spotted on Facebook by animal loving Holly-

wood movie director Michael Bay, who decided to cast her in the fifth instalment of the blockbuster Transformers series.

Bay, 51, said that if the role did not find the dog a home, he would keep her, ‘The Mirror’ reported.

“We are thrilled at the opportunity of a movie deal for Freya and at such interest and support from a major film director who is also a dedicated animal advocate,” a spokesperson for Freshfields Animal Rescue Centre, where Freya is currently lodged, said.—PTI

‘Captain Tsubasa’ author Takahashi to script animation film for China

QINHUANGDAO, China — A 3D animation film themed with China’s youth football is in preparation and the author of “Captain Tsubasa”, a popular Japanese comic series, Yoichi Takahashi will write the scripts, concerned parties said at a press conference here on Saturday.

“The film is expected to inspire Chinese teenagers to love football, as well as to cultivate their sports spirit of hard work,” said Zhao Jun, one of the investors. The leading actor of the film, which is scheduled to be released in 2018, is a talented football kid who learns stunts from rivals. The tougher his opponents are, the higher his morale will be, and he never gives up and saves no efforts until the last whistle. The press conference was held in Qinhuangdao, a coastal city in northern China, where China scored a 4-2 victory against Trinidad and Tobago in a friendly the day before. Gao Hongpo, head coach of China’s national team, also attended the conference, together with Japan’s world-famous cartoonist Takahashi. “‘Captain of Football Team’ depicts the power of dreams. The protagonist goes through the process of growth. He eventually takes a team from an ordinary mountain village to the National League Championship. I hope his experience could reflect the development of the era and society,” said Takahashi.—Xinhua

Selena Gomez. PHOTO: REUTERS

French scientists join project to uncover secrets of the pyramids

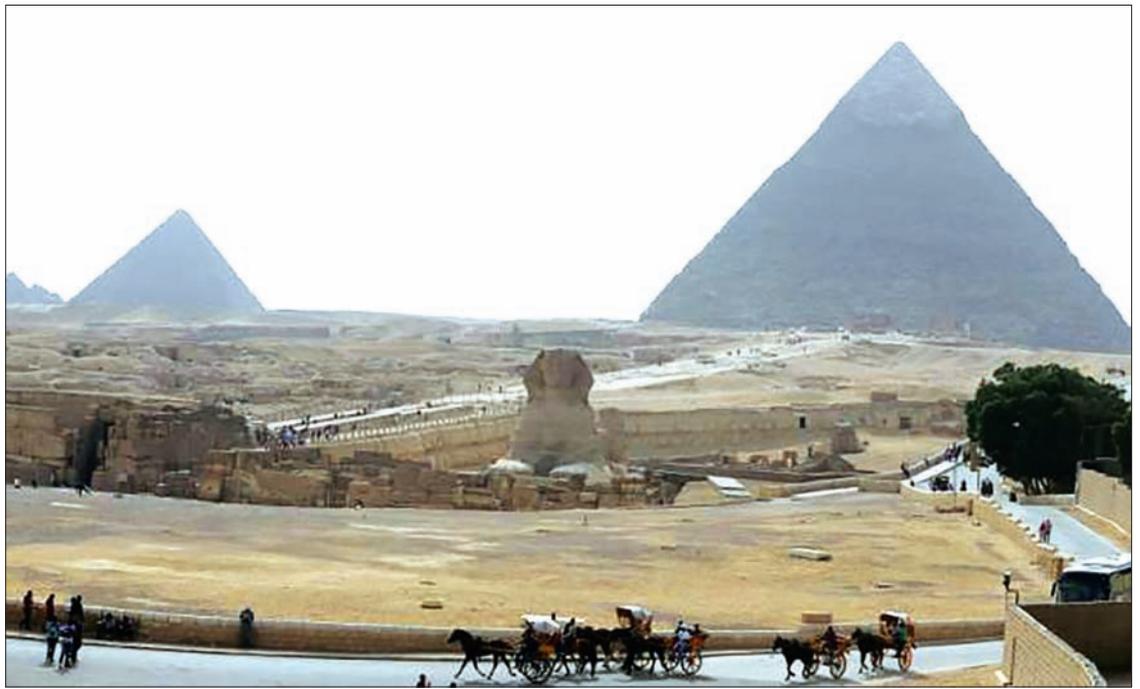
PARIS — French scientists equipped with a special telescope have joined the Scan the Pyramids project that was launched last year to discover the secrets of Egypt's ancient structures.

The telescope was developed by the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA) and uses muon particles, which are similar to cosmic rays. The scientists hope it will help them verify and visualize hidden chambers and unknown structures in the pyramid.

"We're trying to discover the Pyramids of Giza and other pyramids as well, and whether or not there lies anything behind them, or any secrets we do not know about," said Yasser Elshayeb, an assistant to the project manager.

The scientists will concentrate first on known areas of the pyramid before they begin to sweep unexplored sections for any hidden chambers.

They are expected to present their results by the beginning of July.—Reuters



The Sphinx and the Great Pyramids of Giza are pictured on the outskirts of Cairo, Egypt. PHOTO: REUTERS

China's music, dance show enchants audience in Mexico City

MEXICO CITY — The Shanghai Theatre Academy, one of China's most celebrated performing arts institutions, put on an enchanting music and dance show here on Thursday night, as part of the 2016 Friendly Cultures Fair (FCA).

The show featured singing,

dancing and traditional Chinese music instrument performance, thrilling the audience at the Esperanza Iris Theater.

The programme, divided into 15 acts, began with a dance named "The Flower", in which a group of young performers put on a dance, full of freshness and ele-

gance. The song, "Yi Mountain", an adaptation of a traditional song from the ethnic Yi group in the southern Chinese province of Yunnan, was movingly interpreted by Li Jiao.

Another act that deeply impressed the audience was the blending of traditional Chinese

music with Kunqu opera, especially "The Brown Tunic" aria from the famous Chinese opera "The Peony Pavilion," which chronicles the emotional love story of a noble lady, Du Liniang.

Before closing with the impressive "Dragon and Phoenix Dance," singers Li Jiao and Liu

Yixuan surprised the audience with their rendition of "Mexico lindo y querido", one of Mexico's most famous folkloric songs.

Officials from Mexican cultural authorities and Chinese Ambassador to Mexico, Qiu Xiaoqi, were present at the show.—Xinhua

Asian-style night market attracts visitors in City of Richmond



RICHMOND — Photo taken on 4 June 2016 shows the night market featured by an animated dinosaur. The Asian-style night market in the City of Richmond has attracted more than 10 million people for the past 16 years. An estimated 1 million visitors are expected to visit the weekend market that runs from mid-May to October.

PHOTO: XINHUA

Dig for victory! Hungarian grave diggers compete to be the best

DEBRECEN (Hungary)— In a graveyard in Hungary, solemn contemplation gave way to frantic sportsmanship on Friday as dozens of grave diggers battled to prove they were the fastest and best in the business.

Taking their places at plots selected by pulling names out of a hard hat, 18 two-man teams waited for an official to shout "Start!" before shoveling at the ground to dig a precise, regulation-size grave as quickly as possible.

"I don't think this is morbid," the Hungarian Undertakers' Association's deputy chairman, Zoltan Juracsik, told Reuters at the national grave-digging con-

test at the wooded cemetery in Debrecen, Hungary's biggest city after Budapest.

"This is a profession, and the colleagues who toil in competition today are proud and deserve our respect."

In less than half an hour, the local team, perhaps enjoying the home advantage, finished their grave first. The stragglers took almost one hour.

The graves were then judged on neatness and whether they complied with the regulation size: 200 cm long, 80 cm wide and 160 cm deep (7 feet by 2 feet 7 inches by 5 feet). The winning team wins a place in an international tournament against

Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

The contest is meant to improve the prestige of grave digging and attract young men to a job that must still be done by hand in crowded graveyards where mechanical diggers cannot fit.

One of the competitors, Csaba Halasz, 21, began by taking summer job after high school. Although he graduated with a degree in physical education, he stayed in the business.

"This job chose me," he said. "It's hard but it's worth it. Relatives come and thank me every time. The profession just lured me in."—Reuters

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(6-6-2016, Monday)

06 : 00 pm	Music
• Weather Report	08 : 50 pm
• Pyi Thu Ni Ti	• Bogalay Tint Aung: A Man of Versatility (Part-2)
06 : 30 pm	09 : 20 pm
• Cartoon Programme	• International Movie Songs
• "Paprika" (Part-1)	09 : 30 pm
07 : 00 pm	• Music Programme
• International Drama Series	09 : 40 pm
07 : 40 pm	• Myanmar Video
• International Drama Series	12 : 00 pm
08 : 30 pm	• Close Down.
• MRTV Entertainment	

From 06-6-2016 (Monday) 6:00 Pm
To 07-6-2016 (Tuesday) 6:00 Pm

mitv Myanmar International

(6-6-2016 07:00am ~ 7-6-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Gemstone Sculptor
07:39	Am	Htan Taw Drums (Part-I) "Osi"
07:52	Am	Colonial Buildings and a New Yangon
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	National Literary Icon & Guiding Light of Myanmar Literature: Sayar Zaw Gyi (Episode- 1) Childhood And Student Life
08:47	Am	A Pilgrimage To Prominent Pagodas In Pakokku
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Herbal Medicine By Thurein (Ta Bin Dine Mya Nan)

(Vitis)

10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Those Who Never Give Up (Ep-5) Shwe Min Thar Foundation
10:45	Am	Mahar Thakya Atula Man Aung - Nga Htat Kyee

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Sunday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Food Trip (Ep-9) (Part -1)
07:52	Pm	Great Minds of Myanmar (Anthropologist U Kyaw Win)
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Taste Of Myanmar (Papaya Salad)
08:45	Pm	Young Lady Musician: Nge Nge Lay
(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Sunday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)		

Lopez and Lopez break grand slam duck in Paris

PARIS — Marc Lopez and Feliciano Lopez made Saturday in Paris a day to remember for Spain as they beat American twins Bob and Mike Bryan, the most successful doubles pairing in grand slam history, to win the French Open crown.

Hours after compatriot Garbine Muguruza notched up her maiden slam title on the same Philippe Chatrier showcourt with a straight sets defeat of holder Serena Williams, Lopez and Lopez took their first major too, going the full distance in winning 6-4, 6-7(6), 6-3.

While the Bryan brothers were seeking their 17th grand slam title having won their first — also in Paris — in 2003, the Spaniards teamed up at the start of 2016 for the Australian Open. The Americans also won at Roland Garros in 2013.

More mobile than the faster-serving Americans and more inclined to chance their arm at

the net, the Spanish pair — who are not related — took the first set after breaking Bob's serve in the first game.

The Bryans bagged the second set on a tiebreak their opponents came within two points of winning, before Feliciano closed out the match in the third with a love service game.

"We won the match against the best in the world. You can't expect anything better than that," said Feliciano, who as a singles player enjoyed moderate success at the slams having reached the quarter-finals at both Wimbledon and US Open.

"There is no doubt that this is one of the most beautiful wins in my career. For the past 18 months I have been playing the doubles, and at that time I didn't think that I would be in a position to win a grand slam so quickly.

"It's quite unexpected. It's a great reward."—Reuters



Garbine Muguruza poses with the trophy after beating Serena Williams during French Open Women's Singles Final match at Roland Garros, Paris, France on 4 June, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Muguruza dethrones Serena again in Paris to win French Open

PARIS — For a split second Garbine Muguruza stood wide-eyed and open mouthed as she seemed to have no clue if her lob had landed in — but as she turned towards the VIP Box, the wild cheers proved she had dethroned Serena Williams to win the French Open title.

The 22-year-old Spaniard, who produced a pristine performance for an hour and 43 minutes on Saturday to deny Williams a 22nd major trophy with a 7-5, 6-4 victory, was soon covered head-to-toe in clay after collapsing on to her back to celebrate her maiden grand slam triumph.

Her shirt, arms, white sweat-

bands, cheeks and hair were all caked in red dirt but Muguruza did not care a jot as she became the first Spanish woman to hoist the Suzanne Lenglen Cup since Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in 1998.

"It (match point) was really weird. Serena was in front of the ball so I didn't know if it was in or out," said a beaming Muguruza, who was presented with the trophy by American great Billie Jean King.

"I looked at the umpire and he doesn't want to say anything. I was like, 'did I win Roland Garros?'"

"When he said, 'game, set, and match'...it was like ...no way.

I won. It was amazing."

Incredibly, the Caracas-born player had never claimed a clay-court title before winning what she called "the perfect final" on Saturday.

If she was the superstitious kind, she would have chosen not to flick through the record books — as the last time a woman contested her first claycourt final in Paris, she got walloped 6-0, 6-0 by an incumbent world number one.

Not only did Muguruza avoid suffering the same fate as Natasha Zvereva, who was humiliated by Steffi Graf in 1988, she did not even allow the current number one to win a set on Saturday.—Reuters



Feliciano Lopez (ESP) and Marc Lopez (ESP) pose with the trophy after their match with Bob Bryan and Mike Bryan (USA) on day 14 of the 2016 French Open, Paris, on 4 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Brazil held by Ecuador, Peru sole winners in Copa America



Ecuador forward Enner Valencia heads the ball away off a cross against Brazil during the second half during the group play stage of the 2016 Copa America Centenario at Rose Bowl Stadium, Pasadena, CA, USA, on 4 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

PASADENA (CA) — Eight times champions Brazil were held 0-0 by Ecuador in the glamour game as the second day of the centenary Copa America tournament mustered up only one, albeit spectacular, goal from three matches on Saturday.

Paolo Guerrero's diving header helped put Peru in the driving seat in Group B with a 1-0 win over Haiti in Seattle after Costa Rica and Paraguay had also played out a goalless draw in Group A in Orlando.

Neither Brazil nor Ecuador were able to dominate the match in Pasadena and it was the Andean side who might consider themselves unlucky not to have snatched all three points after having a goal chalked off 20 minutes into the second half.

Miller Bolanos crossed the ball from the byline and Brazil

keeper Alisson dragged it into his own net but the linesman ruled the ball had already gone out of play.

Brazil had more chances at the Rose Bowl stadium where they won the 1994 World Cup with Esteban Dreer saving well from Philippe Coutinho in the third minute and substitute Lucas Moura almost grabbing a winner with just seven minutes left only to see his header whizz agonisingly wide. Brazilian midfielder Renato Augusto lamented the result but praised Ecuador, who lived up to their reputation as one of the continent's fastest sides with plenty of running and counter attacks.

"Ecuador played very well tactically," he said. "They neutralised our strong points, they are a good team. The important thing now is to win the next two games and go through to the next round on a high."—Reuters